

CLAIMS:

1. A method of facilitating selection of a lodging property, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving an indication of a geographic area of interest from a user;
- 5 (b) identifying one or more lodging properties located within the geographic area of interest;
- (c) displaying a map of the geographic area of interest whereupon are plotted the locations of the one or more lodging properties; and
- 10 (d) displaying in a pull-down dialog box substantially dynamic information regarding the particular lodging property indicated by the user, wherein the substantially dynamic information is provided in substantially real-time so as to be substantially current.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the indication of the
15 geographic area of interest is in the form of a city name.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the indication of the geographic area of interest is in the form of a substantially unique name of a feature having a known location.
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4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein step (a) includes receiving one or more other user-specified criteria from the user.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein in step (c) only the locations
25 of one or more conforming lodging properties located within the geographic area of interest and conforming to the one or more other user-specified criteria are plotted on the map.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in step (c) the map is initially
30 displayed centered about an average location of the plotted lodging properties.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the step pfoviding a navigational control allowing the user to manipulate the map for viewing.

8. The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the navigational control includes a zoom capability and a movement capability.

5 9. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the step of displaying in the pull-down dialog box substantially static information regarding a particular lodging property indicated by the user.

10 10. The method as set forth in claim 7, further including the step of providing one or more hyperlinks to additional static information and additional dynamic information.

11. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the step of plotting one or more non-lodging features on the map.

15 12. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the step of providing substantially real-time access to a computerized reservation system of the particular lodging property indicated by the user so as to facilitate the user making a reservation.

20 13. A computer program operable to implement the method as set forth in claim 1.

14. A method of facilitating selection of a lodging property, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving an indication of a geographic area of interest and one or more other user-specified criteria from a user;
- 5 (b) identifying one or more lodging properties located within the geographic area of interest and conforming to the one or more other user-specified criteria;
- (c) displaying a map of the geographic area of interest whereupon are plotted the locations of the one or more lodging properties;
- 10 (d) displaying in a pull-down dialog box substantially dynamic information regarding the particular lodging property indicated by the user, wherein the substantially dynamic information is provided in substantially real-time so as to be substantially current; and
- 15 (e) providing substantially real-time access to a computerized reservation system of the particular lodging property indicated by the user so as to facilitate the user making a reservation.

20 15. The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the indication of the geographic area of interest is in the form of a city name.

16. The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the indication of the geographic area of interest is in the form of a substantially unique name of a feature having a known location.

25 17. The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein in step (c) the map is initially displayed centered about an average location of the plotted lodging properties

18. The method as set forth in claim 14, further including the step of providing a navigational control allowing the user to manipulate the map for viewing.

30 19. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the navigational control includes a zoom capability and a movement capability.

20. The method as set forth in claim 14, further including the step of displaying in the pull-down dialog box substantially static information regarding a particular lodging property indicated by the user.

5 21. The method as set forth in claim 20, further including the step of providing one or more hyperlinks to additional static information and additional dynamic information.

22. The method as set forth in claim 14, further including the step of plotting
10 one or more non-lodging features on the map.

23. A computer program operable to implement the method as set forth in claim 14.

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24. A method of facilitating selection of a lodging property, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving an indication of a geographic area of interest and one or more other user-specified criteria from a user;
- 5 (b) identifying one or more lodging properties located within the geographic area of interest and conforming to the one or more other user-specified criteria;
- (c) displaying a map of the geographic area of interest whereupon are plotted the locations of the one or more conforming lodging properties, wherein the map is initially displayed centered about an average location of the plotted lodging properties;
- 10 (d) plotting one or more non-lodging features on the map;
- (e) providing a navigational control allowing the user to manipulate the map for viewing, wherein the navigational control includes a zoom capability and a movement capability;
- 15 (f) displaying in a pull-down dialog box substantially static information regarding a particular lodging property indicated by the user;
- (g) displaying in the pull-down dialog box substantially dynamic information regarding the particular lodging property indicated by the user, wherein the substantially dynamic information is provided in substantially real-time so as to be substantially current;
- 20 (h) providing one or more hyperlinks to additional static information and additional dynamic information; and
- (i) providing substantially real-time access to a computerized reservation system of the particular lodging property indicated by the user so as to facilitate the user making a reservation
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25. A computer program operable to implement the method as set forth in claim 24.

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26. A method of facilitating selection of a lodging property, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a substantially unique name of a feature having a known location, and receiving one or more other user-specified criteria;
- 5 (b) identifying one or more lodging properties located within a geographic area associated with the feature and conforming to the one or more other user-specified criteria;
- (c) displaying a map of the geographic area of interest whereupon are plotted the locations of the one or more conforming lodging properties, wherein the map is initially displayed centered about an average location of the plotted lodging properties;
- 10 (d) plotting one or more non-lodging features on the map;
- (e) providing a navigational control allowing the user to manipulate the map for viewing, wherein the navigational control includes a zoom capability and a movement capability;
- 15 (f) displaying in a pull-down dialog box substantially static information regarding a particular lodging property indicated by the user;
- (g) displaying in the pull-down dialog box substantially dynamic information regarding the particular lodging property indicated by the user, wherein the substantially dynamic information is provided in substantially real-time so as to be substantially current;
- 20 (h) providing one or more hyperlinks to additional static information and additional dynamic information; and
- (i) providing real-time access to a computerized reservation system of the particular lodging property indicated by the user so as to facilitate the user making a reservation.
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27. A computer program operable to implement the method as set forth in claim 26.

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